

HB 228 -- School Bus Safety Cameras

Sponsor: Sommer

This bill allows a school district, if approved by a vote of its local board, to install and operate an automated camera in a school bus to detect violations of the law that require a driver to stop for a school bus that has stopped on a highway to receive or discharge students. A district will be held harmless from and not liable for any criminal or civil liability arising from the use of a safety camera. The camera may take pictures only while an infraction is occurring and may not show the face of the driver or passengers in the vehicle committing the infraction. The procedure for sending a notice of infraction to the registered owner of the vehicle or the operator of a rented vehicle is specified in the bill. A presumption is created that the registered owner of the vehicle is responsible for the infraction, but the presumption may be overcome by the owner's sworn statement or testimony that the vehicle was under the control of another person at the time of the violation.

No image or photograph created by the camera can be used for any purpose other than the enforcement of violations, nor may it be retained longer than is necessary to enforce the provisions of the bill.

If a district installs and uses an automated bus safety camera, the compensation paid to the manufacturer or vendor of the equipment cannot be based upon a portion of the fine or civil penalty imposed or the revenue generated by the equipment. A school district must follow a competitive bid process before entering into a contract with the manufacturer or vendor of the equipment. Any revenue from infractions detected through the use of a camera, less the administration and operating costs, must be remitted to the school district where the violation occurred to be used for specified school traffic safety projects.